

RECOGNIZING FRANKIE BRETHERICK
HONORING AMERICA'S
FIRST FLY GIRLS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) were the first women in American history to fly military aircraft. Between the years 1942–1944, women were recruited to fly non-combat missions, so that every male pilot could be deployed in combat. These women piloted every kind of military aircraft and logged 60 million miles flying missions across the United States. They were never awarded full military status and were not eligible for officer status. It was not till 1977 that the WASP pilots were granted veterans' status. Of the 1,102 WASP pilots, just under 300 are living today. One of these living legends resides in the Third Congressional District, Frankie Bretherick. I'd like to thank her personally for her service to this great nation for being a pioneer of flight.

Frankie Lovvorn was born September 19, 1914, in Cranfills Gap, Bosque County, Texas. Her parents were Francis Marion Lovvorn and Primrose Smith. She graduated from high school in Meridian, Bosque County, Texas. She graduated from Providence Hospital Nursing School in Waco, Texas, in 1937. She worked for five years at various veteran's hospitals in Texas and Louisiana. She began flying lessons at an airport south of Dallas, Texas.

By the time she applied and was accepted into the WASP program, Class of 44W–6, she had acquired a commercial pilot's license and had logged over 200 hours of flying time. While stationed in Greenville, Mississippi at Greenville Army Air Base until deactivated on December 20, 1944, she flew BT–13s and UC–78s and slow-timed repaired aircraft.

After deactivation, Frankie was asked to join the Army Nurse Corps in May 1945. She was sent to Mitchell Field, New York where she worked at a hospital for three weeks. She was then sent to Randolph Field in San Antonio, Texas to attend the School of Aviation Medicine where she received training to become an air evacuation nurse. After World War II, she went to business school and attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She also worked part-time as a nurse while in school.

Frankie met Joseph Harry Bretherick while both were stationed in Greenville, Mississippi. They married in 1949 and lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for 19 years. Frankie continued working as a part-time nurse after their marriage.

They moved to Sarasota, Florida in 1968. After moving to Sarasota, Florida, Frankie became involved with the Sarasota Garden Club. She also acquired her Real Estate license. Frankie's husband, Joe, died in 1999. About three years ago Frankie moved to Plano, Collin County, Texas, to be close to family.

Through their actions, Women Air Force Service Pilots were a catalyst for revolutionary reform in the integration of women pilots into the U.S. Armed Services. Just as the Navajo Code Talkers served with distinction and were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, it is

also appropriate for Congress to recognize and honor the service of the WASP with the Congressional Gold Medal. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest and most distinguished award that the U.S. Congress can award to a civilian. Finally, these women will receive that long-overdue recognition now that the House and the Senate have passed the bill granting these women.

This Congressional Gold Medal honors mothers, grandmothers, teachers, office workers, nurses, business women, photographers, dancers, one was even a nun. But before that, they were pilots for the US Army Air Corps during World War II. Finally, this Congress has recognized their sacrifice and considers them all heroes because these trailblazers and true patriots served our country without question and with no expectations of recognition or praise. That is what being a true hero is all about! The Congressional Gold Medals will be awarded to all 1,102 pilots and/or their surviving family members.

To the brave and selfless women like Frankie, our nation owes them a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice. I am so very proud of them. God bless them and God bless America! I salute them one and all.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2892, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2010.

The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill makes fundamental investments that are vital to our nation's security. It tightens our nation's borders, allows for installation of the latest explosive detection systems at airports nationwide, protects our ports and critical infrastructure, and provides grants to meet the needs of our first responders. It also increases funding for the Urban Areas Security Initiative, which is very important to my home city of New York, by almost \$50 million, matching the President's request, for a total allocation of \$887 million.

In the months following the September 11th attacks, I spearheaded the creation of the High Threat Urban Area Account Program, which later became the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). I undertook this effort because, at the time, there were no Federal domestic security grant programs that provided funding solely on the basis of threat and risk. While I recognize that the threat of terror lingers everywhere, there are, unfortunately, several cities and areas that are more vulnerable to attack. New York, my home city, is one of them.

This is not a distinction we are proud of, but it is a reality we face. Al-Qaeda has already attacked my city twice. And, for me, it became

all the more personal when my cousin, a New York City fireman, died during the September 11, 2001 attacks trying to help people out of Tower 2 at the World Trade Center.

What happened on September 11th can never happen again, and that is what the UASI program is about. The grants go to cities and states under the greatest threat of attack. In New York City, the grants have been used to train and better equip first responders, and provide them with better communication systems to assure preparedness, in addition to improved monitoring of critical infrastructure.

Late last month, four men were arrested in a plot to bomb two Bronx synagogues. According to authorities, they had planted bombs in cars outside the two synagogues, and were planning to shoot down military planes at an Air National Guard base in upstate New York. New York's Office of Homeland Security later provided Urban Area Security Initiative Non-profit Security Grant Program (NSGP) funds in order to resolve the vulnerabilities of the synagogues. Additionally, it was Federal homeland security dollars that assisted the New York Police Department in their excellent investigative work to stop this act of terror before it occurred.

Madam Speaker, the threat of terrorism remains very real, making it essential for cities that face the greatest risk to have the tools and resources necessary to stop attacks before they occur. Cities, like New York, remain a major target for terrorists, and programs like UASI help us fight terrorism and ensures that our first responders have the equipment they need to protect the American people.

I would like to thank the gentleman from North Carolina, Chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, for his leadership, hard work, and dedication to the urban area initiative and I urge adoption of the bill.

HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THE LOTHSPICH FAMILY

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the military service of the Lothspeich family of North Dakota. North Dakota has a proud military tradition and has sent many of its sons and daughters into the service of their country. Amongst this proud history and tradition the Lothspeich family is unique. Edward and Rose Lothspeich were the parents of nine boys and one girl. From this family all nine of the Lothspeich brothers have bravely answered the call of a grateful nation when it was sorely needed.

These brave men served across several critical periods in our nation's history. Eugene, Harold and Edward served at the height of World War II. Donald, Gerald, Lyle, Marlin served during the Korean War and the beginning of the Cold War. Franklin and Leon served in Germany during a period in which the Soviet Union was increasing the isolation of East Germany.

Next week as we gather to celebrate the birth of our nation, the City of Park River, North Dakota will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. As a part of that celebration, Park